

The "Dirty Dozen"

Twelve Pollution Prevention Tips for Motor Vehicle Recyclers

By doing the things listed below, motor vehicle recyclers can avoid a dozen dirty work practices that cause environmental contamination at motor vehicle salvage yards. This list can be used to identify things motor vehicle recyclers should be doing to become a Certified N.H. Green Yard. For more information, contact the N.H. Green Yards Program at (603) 271-2938 or nhgreenyards@des.state.nh.us.

1. Check incoming vehicles for leaks and use drip pans to keep leaks off the ground.
2. Remove fuel, motor oil, transmission fluid, brake fluid, and antifreeze for recycling, before storing the vehicles, and before customers dismantle parts at "U-Pull-It" facilities.
3. Drain fluids and dismantle vehicles only over a concrete or other impervious surface, protected from precipitation and storm water runoff.
4. Store fluids in closed, leak-tight, non-breakable, properly labeled containers or tanks, inside a building or outside with secondary containment covered by a roof.
5. Store vehicle fuel tanks, fully drained, in a ventilated area that has an impervious surface and is protected from precipitation and storm water runoff.
6. Store engines, transmissions, and other oily, greasy parts removed from vehicles on an impervious surface protected from precipitation and storm water runoff.
7. Remove batteries for recycling, and place them either in a covered storage area on an impervious surface or in plastic containers with lids.
8. Evacuate refrigerants by using certified equipment in good working order, and recycle or dispose of the refrigerant in accordance with federal requirements.
9. Store waste tires either in transfer containers or small piles measuring less than 25 feet in diameter and 15 feet in height, surrounded by fire lanes at least 25 feet wide. Keep waste tires from accumulating water, and ship them off-site to an authorized disposal facility on a regular basis.
10. Clean up spills immediately. Remove any contaminated soils quickly and store the soils in a separate labeled container for proper disposal.
11. Seal floor drains with concrete or connect them to a registered holding tank or municipal sewer (with permission).
12. Maintain the buildings and property to reflect a clean, orderly, and safe operation.

